

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicant notes that claim 2 has been amended.

The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Iwagaki et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,707,999. Applicant notes that the U.S. filing date of Iwagaki is March 28, 2001 and the U.S. filing date of the present application is November 29, 2000. Thus, Iwagaki is not a 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior art reference.


In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33157.

Respectfully submitted,

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